

Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) EP 0 945 777 A3

(12) EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
06.09.2000 Bulletin 2000/36

(51) Int Cl.7: G06F 1/00, G06F 13/40

(43) Date of publication A2:
29.09.1999 Bulletin 1999/39

(21) Application number: 99302082.5

(22) Date of filing: 18.03.1999

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

- Le, Harry Q.
Katy, Texas 77450 (US)
- Waldorf, Richard O.
Cypress, Texas 77429-1970 (US)
- Angelo, Michael F.
Houston, Texas 77068 (US)

(30) Priority: 25.03.1998 US 47789

(71) Applicant: Compaq Computer Corporation
Houston Texas 77070 (US)

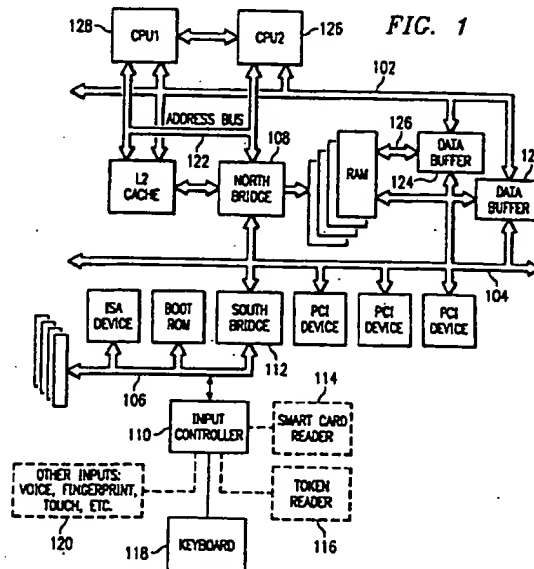
(74) Representative: Brunner, Michael John
GILL JENNINGS & EVERY
Broadgate House
7 Eldon Street
London EC2M 7LH (GB)

(72) Inventors:
• Heinrich, David F.
Tomball, Texas 77375 (US)

(54) Computer architecture with password-checking bus bridge

(57) A computer password security method employing a south bridge circuitry where the user password is compared to a secured password stored in secured

memory which is directly accessible to the south bridge circuitry, removing any threat of data bus and/or unprotected memory snooping.



EP 0 945 777 A3

EP 0 945 777 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 30 2082

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
D,X	EP 0 824 233 A (COMPAQ COMPUTER CORP) 18 February 1998 (1998-02-18)	1,4-6,9, 18, 24-26, 28,30	G06F1/00 G06F13/40
Y	* column 6, line 1 - column 7, line 49 *	2,3,17, 27	
A	* column 17, line 24 - line 41; figure 1 *	7,8,11, 12,14, 19-23, 29,31-33	
Y	EP 0 276 450 A (XMIT AG) 3 August 1988 (1988-08-03)	2,3,17, 27	
A	* column 1, line 11 - line 17 * * column 3, line 7 - column 4, line 22 *	1,4,18, 26,28,30	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			G06F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 18 July 2000	Examiner Moens, R
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 (03.02.1994) (P4/C01)

EP 0 945 777 A3

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 99 30 2082

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

18-07-2000

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP 0824233	A	18-02-1998	US	5850559 A	15-12-1998
EP 0276450	A	03-08-1988	JP	63187353 A	02-08-1988

EPO FORM P0489

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82